

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1948



BILSTON & SEDGLEY:
JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Chairman of Health Committee :
COUNCILLOR G. HARRISON.

Medical Officer of Health :
F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :
DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :
R. B. M. ANDERSON,
A.R.San.I., A.I.S.E., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A.

General Sanitary Assistant :
R. BOWYER.

Public Health Clerks :
Mrs. F. DETHERIDGE. Miss G. WILLIAMS.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1948.

Area : 3,854 acres.

Population : 21,650.

Number of Inhabited Houses : 6,140.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £338 11s. 4d.

Rateable Value : £87,830.

General Rate : 16/6 in the £.

Birth Rate : 16·72.

Death Rate : 8·54.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births : 35·91.

Deaths from Diarrhoea : 0.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis : 10 ; from other Tuberculosis Diseases : 0.

Tuberculosis Death Rate : Pulmonary, 0·46 ; Non-Pulmonary, 0.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
 for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of Sedgley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 I present my Annual Report for 1948, incorporating that of your Sanitary Inspector.

The advent of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which became operative on 5th July, 1948, gave signal importance to the year in that it has introduced what it is hoped will ensure a comprehensive Health Service for the nation. It is such an all embracing measure that a considerable amount of time must elapse before reaching maximum efficiency in providing all the services for which it legislates.

Part III of the Act is the part concerned with local health services but as the Local Health Authority responsible for the implementation of the various services is the County Council, it is outside my province to report on the actual working and progress made in the course of the year in the establishment of the services provided for in the relevant sections of Part III.

As Medical Officer of Health of your Urban District it is, of course, within my province to report on matters and aspects of public health and preventive medicine as affecting your local area. Such matters are :

- (a) Vital Statistics as affecting the Area.
- (b) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area : Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage.
- (c) Housing.
- (d) Meat and other Foods : Inspection and supervision.
- (e) Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other diseases.

The birth rate of the year shows a decrease on last year, being 16·72 as against 18·39 and is lower than the rate of England and Wales 17·9, which latter rate is also a decrease on 1947 when it was 20·5.

The death rate of 8·54 is considerably lower than that of last year when it was 11·14 and much lower than that of the country as a whole — 10·8, which latter rate for England and Wales is also considerably lower than that of 1947 when it was 12.

The infantile mortality rate of 35·9 per 1,000 births of children who died before reaching the age of one year is a decrease on that of last year when it was 39·9 but is above that of England and Wales as a whole, 34, which rate is very much lower than that of 1947 when it was 41.

This national infantile mortality rate of 34 is the lowest ever recorded and much of the credit for this remarkable reduction since 1930, when the rate was 60, can certainly be assigned to infant welfare clinics and domiciliary services and to the work of health visitors.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 21 as against 16 last year and the number of deaths was 10 as against 6 last year, giving a death rate of 0·46 as against 0·27 in 1947. The rate for England and Wales was 0·51.

Bearing in mind the environmental aspects of tuberculosis particularly in relation to overcrowding as potential to the spread of the disease from the patient to others in the household or not conducive to the maintenance of recovery in the returned sanatorium case, I thank your Housing Committee for the consideration they have given to the cases I have recommended for re-housing.

In respect of infectious disease there was a marked increase in the incidence of Whooping Cough and there was also an unaccountable persistence of Erysipelas, notifications averaging two per month. Scarlet Fever, although of a very mild type also continued to prevail. Particulars as to age and locality incidence are given in the relevant section of the report. I thank the local medical practitioners for their co-operation in giving notification of infectious disease.

Close and efficient supervision of the sanitary circumstances of the district has been given by your Sanitary Inspectors and in particular your Chief Inspector is deserving of appreciation and thanks for the arduous and assiduous work he has given to the housing conditions of your urban district and for the meticulous care he has taken in operating your points system for re-housing.

Personally I would convey to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees my appreciation of the help and support they have given me throughout the year.

To your Clerk, your Surveyor, and all other colleagues, administrative and clerical, I would also express appreciation of their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

September, 1949.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate
Live Births		362	185	177	16·72
Legitimate ..		351	180	171	
Illegitimate ..		11	5	6	

Still Births : Total, 13. Rate per 1,000 Total Births, 34·66.

		Total	M.	F.	Rate
Deaths		185	109	76	8·54

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth :
From sepsis, 0. Other puerperal causes, 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (13)					35·91
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births (13)					37·04
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births (0)					0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..					0

BIRTH RATES.

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1939	304	14·69	15·0
1940	299	14·21	14·6
1941	294	13·77	14·2
1942	331	15·7	15·8
1943	364	17·37	16·5
1944	378	17·94	17·6
1945	331	15·78	16·1
1946	346	16·09	19·1
1947	401	18·39	20·5
1948	362	16·72	17·9

DEATH RATES.

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate
1939	251	12·07	12·1
1940	236	11·22	14·3
1941	242	11·33	12·9
1942	232	11·0	11·6
1943	235	11·21	12·1
1944	195	9·25	11·6
1945	239	11·39	11·4
1946	211	9·81	11·5
1947	243	11·14	12·0
1948	185	8·54	10·8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1948.

					M.	F.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..		—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	..	..	..	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	..			9	1
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	..	..	..	1	—
9.	Influenza	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	..			—	—
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	..	..	..	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus and uterus	..	..	..	2	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	..	..		4	2
15.	Cancer of breast	..	..	..	—	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	12	4
17.	Diabetes	..	..	..	—	2
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	9	8
19.	Heart disease	..	..	..	34	26
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..		—	1
21.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	8	5
22.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	1	—
23.	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	2	—
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..		2	—
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	..	..	..	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	1	1
28.	Nephritis	..	..	..	4	1
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	..	..		—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Premature birth	..	..	..	3	3
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases	..	..	..	2	—
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	—	—
34.	Road Traffic accidents	..	..	..	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	..	..	..	3	4
36.	All other causes	..	..	..	10	12
					109	76

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1948.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age :—

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under one year
Cardiac failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Acute Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	8	—	—	—	8	2	2	—	1	13

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Year	SEDGLEY			England & Wales Rate per 1,000 Births
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	
1939	304	26	85.5	50
1940	299	9	30.0	55
1941	294	18	60.0	59
1942	331	12	36.2	49
1943	364	22	60.4	49
1944	378	12	31.7	46
1945	331	17	51.36	46
1946	346	11	31.79	43
1947	401	16	39.9	41
1948	362	13	35.91	34

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Medical Officer of Health is one of the County Assistant Medical Officers of Health, who is posted for part-time duty with your local Urban District Council.

The Sanitary Inspectors are full-time officers, and fully qualified Meat and Food Inspectors.

The Health Visitors, three in number, are under the direction of the Local Health Authority.

In accordance with Part III of the new National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely, the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

With the view to ensuring that the local needs of your Urban District will be borne in mind, an Area Committee has been constituted and an Area Medical Officer appointed to assist the County Medical Officer of Health in the administration of the Health services in your area.

The Health Services which Part III of the Act requires to be provided, are :

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and young children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic help.

With the exception of the provision of Health Centres, all the required services are being provided in your area.

As regards General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Departments available, and easily accessible to your Area, are those of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham.

Tuberculosis.

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available.

Maternity Cases are provided for by

- (a) Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home.
- (b) Wordsley Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and Chemical analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

With the exception of the Goldthorn Hill area, which is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation, the district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., and Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., the respective Engineers-in-Chief of the undermentioned undertakings for the following reports.

(a) **South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.**

(i) " The water supplied to the Urban District of Sedgley has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

(ii) The Sedgley district is supplied with water from Service Reservoirs at Dudley which are normally supplied from four Pumping Stations in the Smestow Valley, together with part of the yield of a two further Pumping Stations in the Lichfield area, the water from one of which is derived from a surface source.

Waters from the various Pumping Stations are examined regularly, both bacteriologically and chemically, and bacteriological examinations are also made of raw waters except in the case of one Station where the plant layout prevents such examination.

Raw water examinations are taken at frequent intervals and during 1948 a total of 78 samples of raw water were analysed from four Pumping Stations, all of which were free from all types of coliform bacteria. In the case of the fifth Pumping Station where it is not possible to sample raw water, fifteen samples of the treated water were examined in all of which coliform bacteria were absent, and in the case of the sixth source, which is derived from a river water, some 306 samples of raw water were taken, most of which showed the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the 306 samples of treated water from this source, all were free from all types of coliform bacteria.

Samples are also examined from Sedgley Tanks and from the Company's Watermans House at Sedgley, and of 36 samples taken from these points during 1948 all were found to be free from coliform bacteria.

The average results of chemical analyses were satisfactory.

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being detected in any of the 12 samples examined.
- (iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the Pumping Stations as a precautionary measure.
In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. The main, reservoir, etc., is not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
- (v) 4,639 houses and premises in the Sedgley U.D.C. area were supplied direct from my Company's mains and a further 935 houses were supplied by means of standpipes. On the average basis of 4 persons per house the corresponding figures for population supplied direct and by means of standpipes would appear to be 18,556 and 3,740 respectively."

(b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

"The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking is derived from a number of sources of supply, and the relative proportions depend on the part of the district and varying circumstances. I have, therefore, included the total number of analyses of samples from the sources of supply, all of which are supplied from time to time into the Water Undertaking's portion of the Sedgley Urban District, including Goldthorn Park area to which you refer.

- (i) The supply of water to the portion of the Sedgley Urban District concerned has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
- (ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examinations of water, after treatment where necessary, sampled at the sources going into supply or in the course of distribution.

Number of samples containing presumptive B.coli-aerogenes per 100 c.c.				
Containing Nil organisms	..	..	..	372
„ 1 to 2 organisms	..	..	..	28
„ 3 to 10 organisms	..	..	..	8
„ over 10 organisms	..	..	..	7
Total number of samples taken				415

Of the 43 samples which gave a positive coliform reaction none was found to be Faecal Coli Type 1.

In addition to the above, 105 bacteriological analyses were made of water at sources of supply before treatment, and 6 samples examined from reservoirs.

Thirty six chemical analyses were made of water in the course of distribution, and 11 chemical analyses of raw water before treatment. Results were satisfactory.

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Subsequent to treatment where necessary at the Supply Works, there has been no known contamination of the water going into supply.
- (v) The number of dwelling houses in the Goldthorn Park area supplied direct is 774, and the population thereof estimated at 2,709. None are supplied by stand pipe.'

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Mr. W. M. Jones, B.Sc., (Eng.) Assoc. Mem. C.E., your Surveyor, has furnished me with the following report :

Sewerage.

"During the year the sewerage scheme in the Catholic Lane and Sandyfields area has been completed, and the houses formerly drained to cesspools, connected up.

A foul sewer extension was carried out to drain three cottages in Himley Road, and during next financial year, an extension will be laid in Jews Lane.

In connection with the Council's Housing Programme, sewers have been provided during the year on the Ettymore Road (North) site for 104 houses and flats to be built thereon.

Sewage Disposal.

The four disposal works can only be said to be fairly satisfactory in their operation, due in all cases mainly to insufficient sludge drying facilities. Sludge is therefore removed too infrequently from the settlement tanks, the efficiency of which is seriously reduced. Ministry of Health approval has still not been received for the construction of additional drying beds at Lower Gornal Works.

During the year, permission was given to the Bilston Gas Company to dispose of some of their ammoniacal liquor at the works at Beacon, Upper Gornal and Gospel End up to $\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the Dry Weather Flow. Such a percentage is accepted as being a maximum without any adverse effect on the operation of the Works or deterioration of the effluent. Analyses taken period-

ically during the four months treatment of the liquor indicate no detrimental effect at Beacon or Upper Gornal Works, but it may be necessary to reduce the amount at Gospel End. This is probably due to the great fluctuations in flow of sewage delivered to the Works by the pumps at Goldthorn Park, referred to in a previous report.

Public Conveniences.

The construction of the Public Convenience in Gospel End Street, near the Bull Ring, Sedgley, has been completed, and will be open to the public in the very near future. The old convenience will then be demolished.

The convenience at Gornal Wood previously closed at 10 p.m. is, in future, to be left open all night. It is hoped that no trouble will be experienced from nuisance and damage.

It is regretted having to report such nuisance and damage in the case of the Green Dragon Convenience."

Sanitary Inspection.

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

Council Houses erected during the period 1/1/48 to 31/12/48 :			
Lower Gornal	..	86	Traditional.
Upper Gornal	..	26	"
Gibbons Hill	..	26	"
Ettymore Road	..	54	Orlit.
Lower Gornal	..	11	Aluminium Bungalows.
Upper Gornal	..	17	"
		220	
Private houses built during			
same period		28	
Total		248	

In interviewing applicants for houses one cannot but feel sorry for the number of young couples who are compelled to live with their parents or to go into rooms where in the latter necessity in many cases when baby arrives they are no longer welcome. This leads to much household disharmony and the emotional stress often manifest in those applicants is certainly not conducive either to mental health or married happiness.

Then at the other end of life we have the elderly. They are fortunate if they are the possessors of good health, but unfortunately in many cases there are those who suffer from handicapping or crippling infirmities inseparable from advancing

years. The standard Council house with its upstairs bedrooms may prove too much for them. Consideration might therefore be given by your Housing Committee to making provision for the elderly in bungalow type dwellings.

Again, many elderly couples may be occupying accommodation in excess of their requirements and if houses of the bungalow type were available to them, there would be a release of such houses as are not being occupied to full economic advantage.

Consideration might also be given with advantage to the inclusion of a proportion of two-bedroom houses in future housing provision. In these days of economic stress and high cost of living, family limitation is given serious consideration and a family of father and mother and two children will be very much the average in the future. The two-bedroom house would therefore meet all requirements until adolescent age is being reached should the sexes of the children be different. That may be an argument for the three-bedroom house, but for say ten years, this position would not arise and by then the whole housing situation of the country, it is hoped, will be very different. Again, by that time the larger type houses that are not being occupied to best advantage should be made available to them by the downward transfer of those people who are occupying too much accommodation to the smaller two-bedroom house.

Granted, the case for more two-bedroom houses might be countered on the grounds that it is materially more economic and ground-saving to add a third bedroom to a house in course of building and, as some would say better value for your money; but it cannot be said that it is giving better economic accommodation-value when it is only housing father and mother and two children for whom the two-bedroom house is all that is required, and unless there is a change in favour of larger families, the two-bedroom house is going to suffice for many years to come. Apart from building and material economics, the two-bedroom house also offers such financial advantages to the occupier as lower rent and cost of furnishing and maintenance and last, but not least, for the housewife, reduction of housework.

Again, in trying to rehouse those who are in condemned houses, or living under unsatisfactory conditions and who have been accustomed to paying low rents many of these unfortunate but deserving people often complain that the rents that have to be charged are too high. With present day costs of material and labour and in spite of subsidisation there would appear to be no escape from high rents, unless one reduced the size of the house and went in for more two-bedroom houses for the time being.

Your Sanitary Inspector makes further comments on the housing situation in his section of this report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.
 Particulars of samples taken in Sedgley U.D. during 1948.
MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Designation	Number of samples submitted	Submitted for Biological Test	Cleanliness		Phos-phatase		Cont'n'g. Tubercle Bacilli
			Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurized)	6	—	6	—	6	—	—
Pasteurized ..	4	—	4	—	4	—	—
Sterilized ..	7	—	7	—	7	—	—
Accredited ..	2	1	1	1	—	—	—
Undesignated ..	29	3	24	5	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Article	Samples taken	Genuine	Adulterated
General Foods ..	28	28	—
MILK	41	40	1
Particulars as to adulteration : The one sample of milk was 3.3% deficient in fat.			

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Pigs
Number killed	1,118
Number inspected	1,118
All diseases except Tuberculosis :	
Whole carcasses condemned	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	0 26
Tuberculosis only :	
Whole carcasses condemned	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	66
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	5 9

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning have occurred during the year.

Food Premises.

The Sanitary Inspector reports fully on this subject.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year shows an increase on last year, the number of notifications being 305 as against 282 last year.

Measles.

79 cases were notified, as against 165 last year. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Cases totalled 76 as against 80 last year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

There were 100 cases against 12 last year. Two deaths occurred.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Erysipelas.

26 cases were notified as against 3 last year.

Hospitalisation.

The total admission for all infectious diseases to Hospital were 28 :

Moxley Hospital	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	20
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	1
	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
Stallings Lane	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	6

AGE-GROUPS and LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1948.

DISEASE	TOTAL	At all ages		Under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over	Sedgley	Upper Gornal	Lower Gornal	Goldthorn Park
		M.	F.															
Scarlet Fever	76	40	36	—	2	3	2	7	45	13	1	3	—	—	27	15	28	6
Whooping Cough	100	39	61	6	8	13	18	17	38	—	—	—	—	—	33	21	22	24
Measles	79	35	44	2	14	13	8	10	32	—	—	—	—	—	16	33	16	14
Pneumonia	24	14	10	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	2	6	8	2	9	3	7	5
Erysipelas	26	8	18	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	13	9	2	12	5	8	1
TOTALS	305	136	169	8	25	31	29	34	116	15	4	22	17	4	97	77	81	50

Swabs and Specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service :

Nose and Throat	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sputum Tests for Tubercle Bacilli	..	..	..	..	..	13
of which 4 were positive.						
Pleural Effusion	..	..	..	..	..	3
Faecal Tests	..	..	..	..	..	—
Blood Tests	..	..	..	..	..	—

General Measures.

School notifications of Infectious Disease are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

Schools are disinfected when considered desirable. The opening wide of windows to ensure a free circulation of fresh air is also insisted upon during week-ends and holiday periods.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is also carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

Immunisation.

Immunisation continues to be actively carried out in the area. 233 children under 5 were immunised and 48 between the ages of 5 and 14.

A reinforcing dose was also given to 227 children.

A central bureau for the purpose of recording immunisation statistics has been established at the office of the Area Medical Officer, Brierley Hill.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified for the year was 21 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary as against 16 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary in 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 years	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 34 years	1	4	—	1	2	—	—	—
35 to 44 years	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 to 54 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 years & over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	15	6	1	1	9	1	—	—

YEARLY FIGURES FOR THE LAST DECADE.

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1939	25	2	14	3
1940	16	3	12	1
1941	23	7	16	6
1942	32	9	14	6
1943	23	—	14	—
1944	18	4	10	2
1945	19	4	8	6
1946	17	4	5	2
1947	16	1	6	1
1948	21	2	10	—

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR. HOUSING.

Throughout the year, housing retained its place as the most important section of our duties and it was the subject on which the greatest proportion of our time was spent.

The state of the older property in the district continued to deteriorate, in some cases at an alarming rate. The age of many houses is such that only continual attention to repair, or alternately, thorough renovation, will prevent the defects from reaching serious proportions. The constant attention necessary at these old houses is generally neglected by the owners until the time arises when the cost of repair is truly alarming.

We found that notices served for repairs to houses were taking longer and longer to achieve the desired results. An increasing number had to be reported to the Health Committee for statutory action (55 during the year), and several had to go to court so that abatement orders might be obtained.

In the early part of the year we were working exclusively under the Public Health Act, 1936. Only items of importance or urgency were included in our notices, and no claim was made that after compliance the house concerned would be in all respects fit. But we lost a case in the Magistrates Court on the 24th August, which resulted in a change of policy.

We had been endeavouring to have repairs executed at a group of seven houses for a very long time. The matter had almost reached the stage of court proceedings when the owner sold the property. The matter was allowed to drop as we believed the new owner intended to carry out repairs. The question was further delayed by talk of the Local Authority requiring to demolish the houses for road widening. When the matter finally came to court, several years had elapsed since the service of the original notices, and the cost of repairs then required was so high that the magistrates refused to make an order.

The whole question of repairs to houses was discussed at length by the Health Committee, and the future policy laid down on the following basis.

Class A. Houses with minor defects.

To be dealt with as nuisances under the Public Health Act. Speaking generally, no action to be taken under this Act where the cost of the necessary repairs was likely to exceed £25, unless this should relate to a single item which was clearly a nuisance, and which could not in itself render the premises unfit for human habitation.

Class B. Houses requiring repairs costing 50% or less than the value of the property.

In these cases, notices to be served under Sec. 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the work done in default, if necessary.

Class C. Houses where cost of repairs would be over 50% of the value of the property.

In such cases the cost of the repairs might be considered unreasonable by the Court, and it was thought that instead of proceeding under Sec. 9 of the Act, it would be better to initiate the procedure for the making of a Demolition Order under Sec. 11. The onus would then be on the owner either to give an undertaking to make the premises in all respects fit for human habitation or submit to the making of a Demolition Order, subject, of course, to his right of appeal.

Class D. Houses considered unfit for human habitation in the opinion of the Local Authority.

In these cases, initiate the procedure under Sec. 11 for the making of a Demolition Order and generally speaking, bearing in mind the possibility of an appeal, accept no undertaking from the owner.

Since we started on the implementation of the above programme, no cases under Class A have yet reached the stage of court proceedings. Under Class B, although some notices have been served, the time limits have not expired and we have not yet been under the necessity of carrying out works in default. By the end of the year, three undertakings had been accepted for houses under Class C, and 22 demolition orders had been made on houses considered unfit for habitation. The addresses of the property on which the demolition orders were made are as follows :

34, Gospel End Street.
 Forge Cottage, Chase Road.
 4, Club Row.
 6, 7, 8, Beacon Court.
 60, 62, Wolverhampton Road.
 44, Summer Lane.
 1, 3, 5, Bank Road.
 44, 45, Pale Street.
 13, 14, 15, The Square.
 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Inhedge Street.

The other aspect of housing work which affects this department is the allocation of tenants to property owned by the Local Authority, including new Council houses.

In previous years, the allocation of houses had been delegated to the Collector and myself, the Housing Committee merely approving the general system of lettings. At the beginning of 1948, however, it was agreed that no allocations be made until they had first been approved by the Committee. There have been advantages and disadvantages in the new method. On the other hand, the new system is rigid and leaves little scope for dealing with emergencies. No matter how urgent the case, it must await the next meeting of the Committee. The criticism which is bound to arise in such work can no longer be levelled at the officers, and the Committee must take all the praise and all the blame.

All applications are received at the Health Department, where they are pointed up from the information supplied by the applicant. Before each meeting of the Committee, those in the highest points group are visited at their homes and a final check up is made before reporting to the Committee. The cases are then either approved, deferred for a time, or in very rare cases disapproved. When houses become available they are let by the officers, without further consultation, from the names on the list approved by the Committee.

It has been agreed by the Committee that the points scheme should not be made public. When people know how the points are assessed, it is not too difficult in some cases to manufacture conditions which would help them to obtain the necessary points. It is extremely difficult to check every factor in an applicant's case.

In May, it was decided to revise our points scheme once again. Alterations had been made on several occasions to the original scheme, as circumstances brought out weaknesses or suggested improvements. By this means we hope eventually to have a system as perfect as it is possible to make it.

During the year, 214 new houses were let, and 32 other houses became vacant and were re-allocated.

Towards the end of the year a check of our application list was instituted by the Ministry on forms supplied by them. A form was sent to every applicant on our list, in all, 1,344 being posted. Of this number, 1,043 were returned, 42 of which stated that they did not require a house. This left a total of 1,001 names on our application list at the end of the year.

A few old houses in the district are under our control and have proved very useful for housing homeless families who would not have qualified for a new house under our points scheme. These include condemned houses under licence, requisitioned

property and houses purchased by the Local Authority. We have a total of 23 houses in this category, and the number is all too small.

During the year, four houses were registered with the department as containing spare living accommodation, and the taking in of sub-tenants or lodgers was permitted in arrangement with the tenant.

A survey of housing conditions in the district was carried out during the year, and although this was only on a small scale, some useful information was obtained. The average number of occupants per house in the Sedgley area was 3·64, and in the Gornal area 4·05. On the Council House estates, the figure was much higher, being 4·5 on one estate. This is no doubt due to the greater accommodation available in houses of this nature.

An interesting discovery was made that of the number of families in lodgings, 44% were not on our application list for houses. Either they regarded the making of an application as useless or they were quite content to remain in their present circumstances. Nevertheless, it is almost certain that the great majority of these cases will one day make application for houses of their own.

Further useful information on various aspects of housing was obtained from the survey. Lists of property for early action under the Housing Acts have been prepared, and our records regarding overcrowding and other matters have been brought up to date.

PRIVIES.

As a continuation of the section in previous annual reports dealing with this matter, I have to report that during 1948, most of the remaining privies in the district were eliminated. It is true that a few still remain, but the conversion of these is either in hand, or the houses are under demolition orders. There will be no need in future years to report specifically on this subject, as the problem has now been practically solved. One point in this connection, however, which should be borne in mind, especially when comparing the refuse collection service with pre-war years, is that nearly 1,000 additional houses have now dustbins, and many of these are in outlying and scattered parts of the district. This accounts in part for the increased number of men engaged in the emptying of dustbins over the pre-war number.

FOOD PREMISES.

The food premises in the district consist of 20 dairy farms, 9 bakehouses, 15 fried fish shops, 22 meat shops, 5 cafes, 3 slaughterhouses and 30 ice cream premises, in addition to the shops, most of which are of the general dealer class.

Generally speaking, these premises were maintained in a good and clean condition throughout the year and practically no trouble was experienced.

Comparatively few samples of ice cream were taken during 1948, as at that time there were no arrangements for collecting samples by the laboratory. This meant that a journey to Stafford was necessary every time samples were taken. The petrol allowed us for our work was not sufficient to permit this work to be carried out with the necessary frequency, nor could the staff really be spared for such long journeys. The occasional samples taken, therefore, gave little indication of the actual condition of the ice cream in the district.

Of the three slaughterhouses licensed, only one is used for regular slaughter, the other two being only used for the occasional slaughter of cottagers' pigs. The one slaughterhouse which concerns us is that of a small bacon factory. During 1948, 950 pigs were killed here, all of which were inspected. Another 168 cottagers' pigs were inspected at the slaughterhouses mentioned above and at private premises.

From the total of 1,118 pigs inspected, 15 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. of meat was condemned. Practically all of this was due to tuberculosis. One entire carcase was condemned through generalised tuberculosis, and in addition 1 fore quarter, 2 hind quarters, 64 heads, 31 plucks, and 2 livers were condemned with the same disease. The percentage of pigs found to be affected in varying degrees with tuberculosis was 5·9.

In addition to the above, foodstuffs of all kinds, but mainly canned goods, were examined in the shops, and the quantities detailed below were certified unfit for human consumption.

Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	tins
Peas	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	tins
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	tins
Syrup	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	tins
Tomato Juice			..	..	..	..	6	tins
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	tins
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	tins
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	tins
Soup	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	tins
Vegetables		..	..	..	..	..	3	tins
Mussels		..	..	..	..	..	44	tins
Jam	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	tin
Orange Juice	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	tin
Prunes	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	lbs.

Cheese	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Corn flakes	64 pkts.
Fish paste	18 jars

Quite a considerable amount of attention was given to food premises in general, but more particularly to cafés and food preparing premises such as meat shops. The need for strict hygiene at all times was repeatedly impressed on the occupiers and with good results. Nothing arose during the year to which attention need be drawn in this respect, and all premises remain in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

INSPECTIONS.

During the year, general and routine inspections to premises of various kinds numbered 5,923. In addition, 1,192 re-inspections were made to properties under notice.

The types of inspections are listed in the table below.

Ambulance	13
Ants, cockroaches, etc.	43
Ashbins	49
Ashpits	2
Bakehouses	73
Billeting	15
Cesspools	7
Cottagers' Pigs	183
Dairies and Cowsheds	122
Drainage	81
Factories	78
Fried Fish Shops	56
Food Premises	110
General Nuisances	24
Houses under P.H.A.	263
Houses Fumigated	40
Housing Act	53
Housing Survey	2,217
Ice Cream Premises	131
Infectious Disease	122
Interviews	159
Letting of Council Houses	563
Licensed Premises	66
Meat Shops	96
Miscellaneous	21
Overcrowding	14
Public Cleansing	634
Piggeries	20
Privies	219
Rats and Mice Destruction	68

Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	63
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	197
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	62
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	30
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	29

NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 356. Of this number, and those outstanding from the previous year, 451 were complied with. We thus finished the year with fewer outstanding notices than when we started it.

It was necessary to serve 159 Statutory Notices during the year, most of which were for the replacement of dilapidated dustbins. Of the Statutory Notices, 41 remained outstanding at the end of the year.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the district as a result of the above notices.

Ashbins provided	..	..	..	..	234
Burst pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	12
Bathroom provided	..	..	..	..	1
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	10
Ceilings whitewashed	..	..	..	..	15
Ceilings repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	41
Cowsheds limewashed	..	..	..	..	5
Cowsheds repaired	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage provided	..	..	..	..	2
Drainage cleared	..	..	..	..	19
Doors renewed	..	..	..	..	5
Doors repaired	..	..	..	..	21
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	8
Dry rot remedied	..	..	..	..	3
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	34
Firegrates repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	21
Houses cleansed	..	..	..	..	2
House roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	115
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	10
New wash-house provided	..	..	..	..	2
New coal-store provided	..	..	..	..	3
Outbuildings limewashed	..	..	..	..	3
Plasterwork repaired	..	..	..	..	71
Privies converted to W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	20
Privies converted to chemical closets	..	..	..	..	36
Pantry provided	..	..	..	..	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	17
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	6
Stair treads provided	..	..	..	..	11

Walls limewashed or papered	41
Walls pointed	16
Washing boiler repaired or provided	15
Water supply provided or re-introduced ..	10
W.C. cleansed	1
W.C. repaired	18
W.C. new pan provided	19
W.C. cistern repaired	20
W.C. provided	2
Windows repaired or renewed	41
Windows provided	2
Washing facilities provided in shops	1
Yards cleansed	4
Yard paving relaid	1

CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

At the beginning of the year, a regular weekly collection of refuse from all premises was instituted, and was maintained throughout the year in spite of absences through sickness and holidays. The only departures from this regular collection were in the bank holiday weeks. At these times it was not possible to keep to the actual day for some parts of the district. Three vehicles, each with driver and four loaders, cover the district easily in the five days during which they work.

During the year, an attempt was made to introduce a municipal bin provision scheme. Several lengthy reports were prepared, and the Health and Finance Committees discussed the matter at length. Unfortunately, however, the Council finally rejected the scheme.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. After the serious infestation by crickets during the summer of 1947, great care was taken during 1948, and I am glad to report that we had no trouble at all in this direction.

All the chemical closets, which have replaced the privies previously mentioned, are emptied by the department, some weekly and others twice weekly, and are recharged with the chemical fluid. Unfortunately, this work has to be done by hand and it is difficult to get labour for this type of work. I can foresee some difficulty here in the future.

SALVAGE.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was the lowest since 1940, and this in spite of the fact that a vehicle was employed almost full time on this work. There appears to be no escaping the fact that the public have lost interest or even sympathy in this matter. Of course, it must also be admitted, that salvage is not a particularly pleasant task and that, when

carried out in conjunction with refuse removal, considerably interferes with the latter. The workmen, therefore, have no particular incentive in increasing the salvage output, in fact, the less there is, the better they can get on with their other work.

The tonnage of the various items collected during the year, with the prices received, are given below.

					Tons		£
Waste Paper	..	..	..	..	71	—	451
Kitchen Waste	..	..	..	..	132	—	209
Rags	..	..	..	..	1	—	15
Bones	..	..	..	..	2	—	12
Bottles and Jars	..	..	..	..	5	—	50
Cullett	..	..	..	..	13	—	9
Scrap Metal	..	..	..	..	2	—	5

Repeatedly throughout the year, complaints had been made by residents about the kitchen waste bins in the streets, and a proposal was made that they be replaced with separate containers in the houses. Lengthy reports were made to the Committee and discussions took place over several months. Finally, however, the Council rejected the scheme, and the street bins remain.

GENERAL.

While the foregoing pages deal briefly with the main aspects of our work, numerous other matters are continually arising to which attention must be given.

Smoke abatement is not a serious problem in Sedgley. We have few large works, and smoke from other districts has given rise to little if any complaint. Observations have, however, been taken from time to time, and we are ready to play our part in the general improvement of atmospheric conditions.

The question of household pests caused us little trouble throughout the year. A few infestations of ants and one or two of cockroaches were dealt with. No bugs were discovered in any premises during the year. Altogether, as regards pest control, we had a very easy time.

The position with regard to rats continued to improve. The sewers and sewage disposal works were treated on two occasions, and the results showed a gradual diminution of the rat population there. Complaints of surface infestations were comparatively few, and mostly related to households where a stray rat had been seen or whose presence was suspected.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the staff and the workmen for their loyal service throughout the year. Much of the good work carried out by the department and reported in these pages is due to their efforts.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**Part 1.****1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	46	7	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	98	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	60	144	7	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

PARTICULARS	No of Cases in which Defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	11	11	—	4	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17	15	—	4	—

Part VIII of the Act.**OUTWORK.**

	Section 110.		
	Number of Out-Workers	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.) ...	114	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	14	—	—
Total ...	128	—	—

